

February 4, 2015

**To: Connecticut State Planning and Development Committee**

**From: Karlene Lukovitz and John Pellegrino, residents,  
26 Clover Drive, Wilton CT 06897**

**Re: Testimony, for Feb. 4, 2015 public hearing, on Proposed House Bill No. 5096: An Act Increasing the Threshold Required for Passage of Unfunded Mandates**

This is to respectfully voice strong support of Bill No. 5096.

As underscored by the just-issued report on 2011 from Connecticut's Department of Revenue, residents pay more in local property taxes than any other type of tax.

Unfunded mandates by the state exacerbate the financial pressures on our towns, pushing up local taxes, in addition to Connecticut's onerous personal income and state sales taxes.

Result: Middle- and even upper-middle-income residents are being forced to relocate to other states, further eroding Connecticut's taxpayer base.

Please help lifelong residents like us, who love this state to remain here and continue supporting it, by giving our towns relief from the burdens of new or expanded unfunded state mandates.

Thank you.